

Interpretation Bulletin

HRM Community Grants Program

Arts & Crafts Funding Category

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide clarity to professional arts organizations considering an application to either the *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* or the *Community Grants Program*, or both.

1. Grants to Professional Arts Organizations

The *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* is a dedicated funding stream for organizations that produce and/or present arts activities of a professional calibre. The definition of professional with respect to this program is as follows:

“Professional Arts Organization” means a registered, non-profit professional arts and culture organization that supports, presents, or produces work by professional or established artists, and employs qualified paid staff to administer on-going arts and culture programs and services.

The *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* has two funding streams: Operating and Project. Operating grants support the general activities of eligible organizations on an annual basis while Project grants provides funding to eligible organizations for discrete, non-recurring projects (presentation, production or organizational capacity).

2. Community Grants Program (Arts and Crafts Category)

The Arts & Crafts funding category of the *Community Grants Program* provides funding to a broad spectrum of non-profit organizations, including non-professional and pre-professional arts organizations and those whose mandate is not specifically arts-related. The program does not preclude application from professional arts organization but **the Community Grants Program will not fund discrete elements of larger projects that are eligible under the *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program*, *Project Assistance Stream* (e.g. small equipment purchases tied to a specific production, see 3(f) below).** However, in accordance with the *Community Grants Program’s* developmental focus on capacity-building, volunteerism and community-based initiatives preference may be given to applicants not otherwise in receipt of government funding (federal, provincial or municipal).

Applicant organization's but must be registered for 12 months as of the program's annual application deadline (March 31).

(A) Project Grants

(a) Non-Professional Arts Organization

For the purpose of the *Community Grants Program* a non-professional arts organization does not meet the criteria set out in Section 2(e) and 2(h) of Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM¹ and may be referred to as a "community arts organization". These organizations tend to be volunteer-led and encourage broad participation, for example, a community theatre or band, a quilting club, or an arts-based youth engagement organization.

(b) Pre-Professional Arts Organization

For the purpose of the *Community Grants Program* the term "pre-professional" refers to:

- (i) An organization whose mandate is primarily developmental instruction for individuals or groups ineligible for funding under the *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program*.
- (ii) A self-described professional arts organization ineligible for consideration under the *Grants to Professional Arts organizations Program* because the organization does not meet the criteria of 3 years continuous operation. May also be referred to as an "emerging" professional arts organization.

(c) Non- Profit Organization Art Project

A non-profit organization whose mandate is not arts-related may apply to the *Community Grants Program* for funding towards an art project. Applicants are not restricted to hiring professionally trained or accredited facilitators but the program's focus is on developmental, community-based or organizational development, not professional development.

Grant recipients under the Community Arts & Crafts category have included environmental, social services, community museums, religious, and ethno-cultural organizations that have used art as the medium through which to examine social justice; personal or collective identity;

¹ The organization has operated continuously for a minimum of three years with strong administrative management and a track record of success and artistic merit; supports, presents or produces work by professional or established artists, and employs qualified paid staff to administer on-going arts and cultural programs and services.

persons, places or events of historical significance; or exhibitions featuring art-making activities or thematic collections.

(d) Umbrella Organizations

In general, the *Community Grants Program* focuses on local, “grassroots” organizations but consideration may be given to a project undertaken by an umbrella organization located within the geographic boundary of HRM based on the extent to which the community arts sector is the intended target audience and the primary beneficiary.

(B) Capital Grants

Presently, there is no defined “capital” funding category in the *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program*. Professional arts organizations unable to include a capital expenditure under an operating² or a production/presentation grant may apply to the *Community Grants Program*. However, preference may be given to applicants not otherwise in receipt of government funding (federal, provincial or municipal).

(e) Real Property

Capital grants of up to \$25,000 are awarded under the *Community Grants Program* towards a property purchase, construction, or capital improvements³ to real property owned by the non-profit applicant. Leasehold improvements are ineligible for consideration. Preference may be given to projects that address safety issues, for example a failing septic system, fire suppression, or building code compliance.

The purchase of large or specialized equipment may qualify for a capital grant if the individual item costs more than \$5,000 net HST. Examples include a forge, kiln, printing press, or sound/film editing console. If ‘cost’ is simply a function of volume - the quantity purchased rather than the individual unit price - the application may be considered under a project grant of up to \$5,000.

(f) Small Equipment

The purchase of small equipment may be considered under the *Community Grants Program* if the item is ineligible for consideration under the *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program*. Is the equipment integral to the presentation methodology or a particular production and thereby eligible for a presentation or production grant under the Project Grant category of the *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program*? It is the responsibility of the applicant

² An operating grant could, for example, be used to repair, replace or upgrade existing equipment.

³ The term ‘capital improvement’ is explained in the *Community Grants Program* guidebook.

organization to confirm the eligibility of their organization, project and/or a particular expenditure. In general, the maximum award for small equipment is up to \$5,000.

The evaluation of equipment requests under the *Community Grants Program* may consider any or all of the following:

- (i) availability to non-members;
- (ii) the degree of specialization;
- (iii) the applicant's ability to store, calibrate or repair, and insure the equipment;
- (iv) recurring operating costs;
- (v) why a purchase is preferable to a lease;
- (vi) the incremental impact of funding (for example, organizational capacity building).